

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036387

10

ORIGIN OES-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:OES/APT/SEP:RLIIMATAINEN:GEM

APPROVED BY:OES/APT/SEP:WAROOT

----- 090619

P 132211Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL ATLANTA GEORGIA

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE INFO LENINGRAD WARSAW
PRAGUE POZNAN TOKYO DTG R 121003Z FEB 76

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY: USSR

1. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWING MEETINGS AT MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SCICOUNS WAS INFORMED THAT AN INFLUENZA STRAIN OF "PARTICULARLY HIGH MORBIDITY" HAS WORKED ITS WAY ACROSS SOVIET UNION FROM JAPAN AND IS NOW "SPILLING OVER" INTO POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MINHEALTH OFFICIALS REFERRED TO OUTBREAK AS "AN EPIDEMIC." IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS'S REQUESTS FOR FIGURES ON INCIDENCES, MINHEALTH OFFICIALS SAID THAT SPECIAL COMMISSION HAS BEEN CALLED CONCERNING THIS DISEASE, AND THAT EMBASSY WILL BE PROVIDED DATA WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE.

2. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CARRIED SOME REPORTS OF INFLUENZA, WITH WARNING THAT RISK OF PNEUMONIA IS HEIGHTENED AND THAT THERE HAVE OCCURRED ASSOCIATED DEATHS, ESPECIALLY AMONG AGED AND VERY YOUNG.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT NUMBER OF ABSENCES ATTRIBUTED TO ILLNESS IN SOVIET BUREAUCRACY HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN
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WOULD BE EXPECTED, EVEN GIVEN THE RECENT COLD WEATHER.

STOESSEL
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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